



Vol. 55 No. 5 | May 2020

An advertisement for virtual library access. It shows a person's hands holding a tablet that displays the South Carolina State Library logo. The background is a light beige color. The text 'Your Library, Virtually Anywhere.' is in large black letters. Below it, 'statelibrary.sc.gov' is in white letters on a blue background. At the bottom, it says 'Check your local library website for online offerings.' and includes the South Carolina State Library logo.

**Your Library,  
Virtually Anywhere.**

**statelibrary.sc.gov**

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 south carolina  
**STATE LIBRARY**

## A Message From Our Agency Director

As I sit to write this part of our Newsletter, I reflect on the last six weeks and how far we have come without any idea of where we were going or how long we would be gone. It has not been easy for any of us, and I would venture to say that it has not been easy for you, either. I frequently talk about the staff of the South Carolina State Library being second to none and a true asset to our state, because it is the truth. The work environment and culture of our agency is of utmost importance to me. A positive work culture doesn't happen by accident; it happens through careful planning, design, and buy-in. Although we have actively worked

to maintain our culture during this period of separation, it has been tough because none of us have any direct experience with operating during a pandemic.

While we are not physically working in the State Library building, all of our staff have been working offsite. However, this time away from our library, the schools, the public libraries, and our patrons and colleagues; has been challenging. I am dedicating this space to talk about that part of our existence - the isolation and anxiety that some employees feel, the difficulty establishing a routine, balancing work and home life while also caring for others, worrying about this "new normal" and what that really means, and even concerns about returning to work. [Read more.](#)



All the best,

Leesa Aiken  
SCSL Agency Director

## SC Libraries



### Opening Day

As you prepare for the re-opening of your library, be sure to visit our [re-opening guide for public libraries](#). There you will find criteria and sample plans for re-opening, as well as suggestions for managing public spaces and social distancing. The guide includes wellness information for staff and links to resources about COVID-19 for librarians.

Download the information sheets to post throughout your building. Planning now will help to ensure a smoother transition once re-opening day arrives.

### Make a Virtual Connection

We are several weeks into quarantine and although hope is on the horizon, we are not

there yet. Like many of you, we miss chatting with our library colleagues. So we created a virtual forum to exchange ideas, tips, hacks, and yes... sometimes vent. [Join us Wednesdays at 11:00 a.m.](#) for an informal meeting of the minds via Zoom. Once registered, you will receive a link to join the conversation. We may be social distancing, but we are always united.

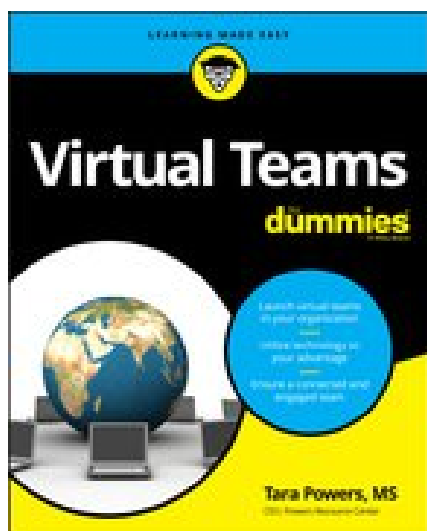


### Keep Learning and Growing

These days may seem monotonous, but each day is what you make of it. Learn a new skill and become even more valuable to your library by joining

our weekly PCI webinars. The May 6 webinar tackles a topic that is important now more than ever, [writing effective emails](#). On May 13, we take you beyond telling a great story and explore ways to [engage leaders to enact change](#). [Strategize a social media plan](#) that builds community while following library policy on May 20. Lastly, have fun on May 27 while finding ways to [create geeky programs at the library](#). Register today and do your part to make this a time of personal growth.

## State Employees

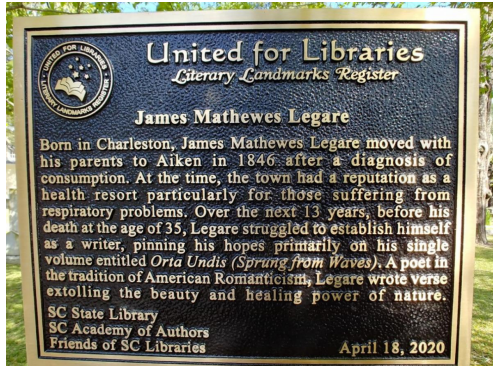


### Embrace the New Normal

Although the new normal involves telecommuting, it may not be normal for you. Luckily, [your State Library card](#) connects you to eBooks that can help you learn ways to adjust. The [Safari Books Online](#) and [ProQuest Ebook Central](#) collections contain titles that are devoted to virtual teams and leadership, as well as how families can adjust to telecommuting. Non one knows how long our current situation will last. Make the most of it by gaining sound advice on the

best ways to adapt.





## Literary Landmark Designated in Aiken

The gravesite of Poet James Mathewes Legare at the St. Thaddeus Episcopal Church church in Aiken is now one of six designated literary landmarks in South Carolina. These sites are listed on the national historic registry through [United for](#)

[Libraries](#), an affiliate of the American Library Association. Although the April 18 ceremony to induct Legare into the South Carolina Literary Hall of Fame was cancelled because of the current health crisis, Legare's name was added to the list of distinguished writers. In partnership with the Friends of South Carolina Libraries and the South Carolina Academy of Authors, the State Library financed the marker, which makes note of Legare's book of verse entitled "Orta Undis" or "Sprung from Waves."

## Libraries, Virtually Anywhere

As we anxiously await the re-opening of the State Library in Columbia, we want to make you aware of the multitude of resources that are virtually available to all South Carolinians. You may obtain a temporary library eCard by completing [the online application](#). Use it to search our online databases and access Books. Our reference librarians are available to answer your questions Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. You may reach them by email, by calling (803) 734-8666, or by using the Ask a Librarian chat space on our home page.



## Virtual Media Centers

Last week South Carolina Superintendent of Education Molly Spearman announced that schools will remain closed for the rest of the school year. [Discus - South Carolina's Virtual Library](#), is more vital than ever as students and teachers continue to work from home. The [Discus electronic library](#) offers an array of resources ranging



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Since 1970, the [Talking Book Services](#) (TBS) team has worked to provide audio materials for the blind, visually impaired, and print disabled citizens of South Carolina. Although we are currently not circulating cartridges because our building is closed, TBS staff is available to introduce patrons to another way to receive materials. The [Braille and Audio Reading Download](#) (BARD) is a free library service of downloadable braille and audio reading material for residents who qualify. Reader Advisors are available to work with family members of current patrons who may not have had the technological know-how or equipment to participate on their own in the past. As well, patrons who have expired password information only need to call 1 (800) 922-7818 to have their passwords reset.

from books and magazines to maps and videos. Until June 30, 2020, Discus will provide free access to Tutor.com. With Tutor.com, students can get help with their assignments in real time. For test preparation and life skills, look to The Learning Express Library. It offers a comprehensive collection of test-preparation tools, skill-building materials, and other career and life skills resources.

### A Friendly Voice



From Our Collection



The [South Carolina Digital State Documents Depository](#) provides access to publications produced by state agencies and state-supported academic institutions. These publications provide citizens with crucial information about state government, including statistics, annual accountability reports, and data on a wide variety of topics related to the state. The [April 2020 list of new South Carolina State Documents](#) is now available.

This month we highlight the [South Carolina Department of Agriculture's Market Bulletin](#). The *Market Bulletin* began in 1913 and was originally an insert in The State newspaper. Later it was added to other papers, and about 12 years later began as a stand-alone publication. The *Market Bulletin* has information about the agency, agriculture-related news, and free advertising available to farmers and consumers. You can find more [issues of the Market Bulletin at the State Library's online collection](#).

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